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18 October 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: CIA Librarian

SUBJECT : International Organizations in the ISC

1. The principles which impelled the development of lists of headings for international organizations are the same as those applicable in general to the whole ISC. The intent was to be able to code information pertaining to those organizations, usually in regard to their composition, programs, conferences, and other activities.

2. There are subject headings which may be used to code international organizations scattered throughout the ISC, and, in addition, there is a list of area codes (see attached) for certain specific organizations. The principal listings are found in the 180, 114.1, 114.7, and 116 Sections. In the case of the 180 Section, the organizations are described by their official names which are usually sufficient to describe their functions. In the case of the 114.1, 114.7, and 116 Sections, when used with appropriate area codes for geographic regions larger than national territories, the organizations are described in terms of the types of groups composing the membership. There are also many subjects listed individually which may be construed as international when appropriate area codes are used. These are: 114.82, 131.11, 751.17, 751.6, 752.6, 784.81, 801.1, as well as the complete pattern of subjects listed throughout the 600 Chapter for Scientific Institutions, Laboratories, and Bodies.

3. The list of area codes for international organizations covers most of those found in the 181 Section. It was found that a need existed for being able to show many activities of those organizations in a manner similar to any other political entity. To avoid confusion and lack of uniformity in (the) area coding the 181 Section, the rule is that when a 181 code is used the comparable area code therefor must be used. This does not preclude the use of any appropriate subject with those area codes.

4. From the foregoing, it may appear that there has not been a consistent or organized development of the listings for international organizations. This is true to some extent. We have not been completely satisfied with the result, but it seems to be a problem not permitting a simple solution. Attempts have been made from time to time to obtain published material. Actually, our system works fairly well in its current state of development.

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5. It is impossible to state precisely the number of intellofax cards pertaining to international organizations, because the statistics available are listed by subject code without area subdivisions. As of June 30, 1954, the latest statistics available, the following number of cards are listed:

180	Section	26,416 cards	
114.7		30,670	for all areas
116		19,270	for all areas. One would have to

guess how many of these pertain to international organizations- possibly, 15,000.

Of those coded by the area code for the international organizations (see attached) with any given appropriate subject, it is impossible to even guess how many cards there are.

A rough estimate of the total number of cards pertaining to international organizations would be 85,000 as of June 30, 1954.

Attachment

Political-Geographic Areas for International Organizations



Chief, Analysis Branch

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